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GROUP 3700

Sir:

Claims 21-23 and 35-39 are pending in this application. Claims 21-23 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 35-39 stand rejected.

Citing an inconsistency in the numbering of the paragraphs, the Examiner has requested a substitute specification to avoid future confusion. Applicant has, accordingly, attached a substitute specification.

In the Claims:

Claim 35 (amended): A re-configurable vehicle roof rack system comprising:

a collapsible storage surface movable between a first position and a second position, the collapsible storage surface having a closed position and a deployed position;

a first guide rail and a second guide rail affixed to the vehicle roof;

a first connecting member moveably affixed to the first guide rail and hingedly connected to the storage surface;

a second connecting member moveably affixed to the second guide rail and hingedly connected to the collapsible storage surface wherein the first and second connecting members slide along the first and second guide rails to move the storage surface between a first position generally coincident with a roof of a vehicle and a second position wherein the collapsible storage surface being generally coincident with a lateral side of a vehicle and while in the deployed position serve as a mounting surface on the side of a vehicle.

Claim 36 (amended): The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 35 further comprising at least one mounting element affixed to the lateral side of the vehicle.

Claim 37 (previous presented): The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 36 wherein the at least one mounting element further includes a recess for receiving a bunge cord.

Claim 38 (previous presented): The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 36 further comprising a first track element and a second track element defining the lateral edges of the storage surface;

a hinge bar affixed between the first track element and the second track element;
and

a collapsible rail hingedly affixed to the hinge bar wherein the collapsible rail folds down to provide for the mounting of oversized objects along the top of the vehicle when the storage surface is in the first position.

Claim 39 (amended): The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 38, wherein the collapsible rail is raised when the collapsible storage surface is deployed along the side of the vehicle whereby the collapsible is operative to vertically support objects mounted on the deployed storage surface.

Amendment to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2 and adds the previously cancelled Figures 3 and 4.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks

Drawings

The Examiner has disapproved of the proposed drawing corrections citing that the proposed drawing corrections introduces new matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant cites the provisional patent application filed on December 29, 2000. As demonstrated in the provisional, the structure disclosed in the new drawings is the same as that shown in the provisional.

The Examiner has further indicated that the cancellation of figures 3 and 4 is not permissible. Applicant accordingly withdraws the cancellation of figures 3 and 4.